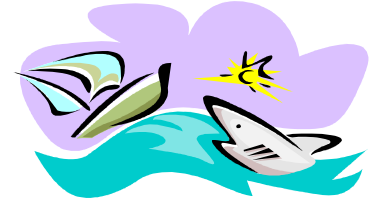




# The Stonegate Splash .....Riding the Waves of Success

THE PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER FOR STONEGATE FAMILIES

STONEGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
14811 NOTLEY ROAD  
SILVER SPRING, MD 20905  
301.989.5668



## A Message from Ms. Fladung

When school begins, many responsibilities are added to your child's life. Eventually, things fall through the cracks—homework is forgotten, instruments are misplaced, lunch money is lost. Some kids are tempted to blame others. To help your child admit fault and learn from mistakes:

- Tell—don't ask. When you know your child has dropped the ball, don't give him or her the opportunity to shift blame. Instead of asking, "Did you study for the social studies test?" say, "I know you didn't prepare for your social studies test. The consequence is that you earned a D. From now on, please tell me when you have a test and I can help you study."
- Be understanding. Boost your child's confidence by complimenting good behavior and limiting criticism. Do not, however, make excuses.
- Provide freedom. Children who are overprotected at home may have trouble at school, where they need to be more independent. Build your child's confidence and ability to handle failure by giving him/her age appropriate responsibilities. Remember that mistakes are opportunities to learn.

## A Message from Mrs. Glawe

In this day and age, safety and security are on the forefront of everyone's mind. We have many procedures in place to ensure our students are safe while on school grounds. One of our procedures in place is to provide a safe arrival and departure from school. The front loop is designed for parents to drop off or pick up their children quickly and safely. Students are directed to wait for their parents and then enter their car; not to run across the loop in traffic. Please help us by encouraging your child to wait for directions from the adult on duty.

To ensure our students arrive and dismiss safely on the bus, we have discussed appropriate bus behavior school wide. Students know that the Stonegate Core Values are to be followed while on the bus. Students are encouraged to sit in their seats while the bus is in motion, and follow the patrols and bus operator's directions. It is expected that parents follow up with their children if any bus issues should arise.

Friday, October 1, 2010

Audra Fladung, Principal

Carla Glawe, Principal Intern

### Special Points of Interest:

- **The PTA will meet on Tuesday, October 5th at 7:00 pm.**
- **Open House will be held on Monday, October 11 from 9:00-11:45. Parents are invited to visit classrooms during this time.**
- **Breakfast with Dads will be held on both October 11 (K-2) and October 12 (3-5) from 7:30-8:30. We hope you will join us!**
- **There is NO SCHOOL for students on Friday, October 15th.**
- **Mark your calendars...Math Night will be held on Thursday, October 21!**



## Highly Gifted Center: Grade 3 Students

Applications for the Elementary Centers for the Highly Gifted (HGC) will be mailed directly to all parents of Grade 3 students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). This is a reminder that **if you are interested in having your child considered for the HGC, you must complete the application and return it by November 8, 2010**, to: HGC Application, Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services, 11721 Kemp Mill Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20902.

**If for some reason you did not receive an application in the mail, and are interested in the program, contact**

**the school or access it from the website at**

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/). The packet also is available in Chinese, French, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

There will be two parent information meetings about the HGC on the following dates beginning at 7:00 p.m. The same information will be presented at each meeting, in both English and Spanish. Feel free to go to the one most convenient for you.

10/6/10

Parent Information Meeting at John F. Kennedy High School, 1901 Randolph

Rd., Silver Spring, Maryland 20902

10/26/2010

Parent Information Meeting at Seneca Valley High School, 19401 Crystal Rock Drive, Germantown, Maryland 20874.

Students who submitted their applications by the deadline will be tested in their current school during January 2011. Notification of the testing date and time for Stonegate will be mailed to the homes of those applying. Results will be shared with families at the end of March.

## Equity Training Continues at Stonegate

Throughout the year, professional staff members will participate in Equity training. The training will be facilitated by the Stonegate Equity Planning Committee and Bryan Avila, Instructional Specialist, from the Montgomery County Diversity Team. Team Leaders have participated in equity training for the last four years. The overarching essential questions, adapted from the Montgomery County Diversity Team, we will begin to address are:

1. How do awareness, knowledge, and understanding of one's own racial and cultural identity promote effective teaching and learning?
2. How do awareness, knowledge, and understanding the racial and cultural identity of students promote effective teaching and learning?
3. How can educators establish learning environments that are conscious of race and culture to ensure implementation of culturally responsive instruction?

We will address these questions through articles, videos, and discussions during staff meetings, team meetings and team leader meetings. One of the books we will explore will be Culturally Responsive Teaching, by Geneva Gay. Through reading and discussing Gay's work, we hope to gain more insights in how to improve student achievement for all students. Staff members will also continue to implement Equitable Classroom Strategies during instruction. Some examples of these strategies include: random calling, greeting students at the door, modeling of graphic organizers, opportunities for cooperative learning, and making connections to real life experiences. As we broaden our knowledge this year, we anticipate many courageous conversations.





## Student Absences

Attending school regularly is an important component of academic success. However, there are instances when students may need to be absent for illness or unforeseen circumstances. Parents are asked to telephone the school prior to 8:45 a.m. when a child is absent for any reason. We have an answering machine, so you can leave your child's name, teacher, and the reason for the absence. The child must bring a note from home upon his/her return.

Parents should keep children at home when illness is suspected, a communicable disease has been diagnosed or lice nits have been found. After five consecutive days of absence, a physician's note is required. The MCPS Absence Policy is below:

- AM absent, if they arrive more than 2 hours late
- PM absent, if they leave more than 2 hours early

- If they are absent for more than any 2 hours during the school day, it's considered a ½ day absence
- If they are present for less than 2 hours of the entire school day, it's considered a full day absence.



## After School Academy

After School Academy confirmation letters were sent home today for each child enrolled in a Session I club! *Only students receiving confirmation notices should plan to stay after school.* We are so grateful to our teacher volunteers for providing these wonderful opportunities for our children. As a result of their planning and preparation, students will be

engaged in Homework Club, Data Club, Knitting Club, and a World Percussion club. Clubs begin next week, so please make sure you remind your child about his/her respective club on the days his/her club is held. **There is no activity bus provided to schools this year; therefore, parents must provide transportation home—please arrive by 4:10**

### **for a timely pick-up.**

Session II offerings will be available for review in January. Should you wish to assist or to host an after school activity for the Winter session, please contact Mrs. Glawe, Principal Intern.

## Open House



On October 11th we will celebrate

our annual open house for families. Parents are encouraged to visit their children's classes anytime between **9:00 a.m. and 11:45 am.** This is a wonderful opportunity to see your child engaged in learning and interacting with other students and teachers and to observe classroom routines and procedures. We ask that younger siblings not attend in order

to limit distractions to the teaching and learning taking place and to make the day special for the child(ren) you are visiting. In addition, we ask that cell phones be turned off during your visit. We look forward to seeing you and hope that you will stop by the **Scholastic Book Fair** during your visit, too!





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SCHOOL HOURS: 8:50 A.M - 3:05 P.M



## Core Values

Respect

Responsibility

Collaboration

Commitment

## Mission Statement

Stonegate's mission as a caring community is to foster the growth of life-long learners by communicating high expectations and standards through respect, flexibility, and collaboration.

## Vision Statement

The Stonegate Community will be committed to a multicultural learning environment that motivates and supports all learners to achieve their greatest potential. We will collaborate respectfully to develop a standard of excellence that promotes high expectations for all learners.

## Math Night Returns...Save the Date!

The Stonegate Math Committee will be hosting our annual Math Night on Thursday, October 21st from 6:30-8:00! Children and their families are invited to join in the fun, as we provide access to math games, activities, and resources. There will also be a parent resource table with updates on math programming and recommended strategies for success. Finally, raffles will be held and prizes will be awarded! We hope to see you there!

## Teach Your Child to Persevere and to Succeed

If your child has a goal he/she wants to reach, such as earning an "A" or making a particular team, achieving it will probably take hard work. And there may be times your child feels like giving up. It's important to teach your child to persevere, even when things are difficult. Start by discussing past successes. What did success feel like? What was learned from achieving the success? Then, choose a fun, realistic objective. Make it something your child is likely to complete soon. If he wants

to read a series of books, start with just the first one. Achievement is a great motivator. Listen for ideas. Children will often mention goals without actually setting them ("I'd love to be in the variety show" or "I hope I finish my report this week") Together, create a step-by-step plan for success. Finally, be the cheerleader! Say things like, "You're sticking with this. I'm impressed." Even if your child misses the mark, praise his/her efforts. Trying hard and learning from mistakes is a

major accomplishment...and sometimes more important than reaching the goal or winning!

